

Reviews

OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

Occupational Medicine and Industrial Hygiene. By Rutherford T. Johnstone, A.B., M.D. (Pp. 604; 117 illustrations, 7 in colour. £2 10s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1948.

Many aspects of occupational medicine are considered in this book. It includes historical and medico-legal data as well as descriptions of clinical syndromes and special industrial processes. The author stresses the need for wider recognition of the importance of industrial medicine both among leaders of industry and members of the medical profession, and presents a scheme for teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students. He emphasizes the importance of occupational hygiene in the field of preventive medicine.

The book begins with a brief history of the development of occupational medicine as a special study. The author praises the early work of Ramazzini and his interest in the health of the worker, and pays tribute to all who have carried this work to its present stage. He then expounds clearly his views on the aims and scope of industrial medicine in the future. Chapters on pre-employment examination, job placement, and job analysis indicate how some of these aims may be achieved. Discussion on the problems of workmen's compensation and the medico-legal complexities are of limited interest to readers outside the U.S.A.

The next section of the book is mainly about the hydrocarbons and the toxic gases. He discusses the chemistry and gives details of the use of particular compounds in industry. The symptoms and signs of intoxication are perhaps less clearly described than the nature of the hazard and methods of its control, but throughout the book complete case records are reproduced when possible to illustrate the main features. A discussion on thioglycolic acid and the thioglycollates, and also on some of the latest "weedicides," illustrates the author's awareness of the daily appearance of new substances which may prove toxic and his wish to make all physicians similarly aware of new risks.

Johnstone gives a full account of the toxic hazards arising from metals in industry. In the chapter on beryllium he draws attention to an important new problem, and in the chapter on lead poisoning he presents the varying views on the storage of lead and its excretion. He quotes at length from several authorities and gives many references both on this aspect and on that of diagnosis. He personally has abandoned treatment of lead poisoning by the method of attempting to store lead in the bones during the acute stage of intoxication, with subsequent controlled "deleading," and prefers to concentrate solely on the incidental effects of lead. He describes his own method of treatment, and also gives a detailed account of the alternative programme. Clearly this controversy is not yet settled.

The final section is on the dusts. Many readers will disagree with some of the author's opinions. I wonder whether our knowledge of the effects of carbon dust is sufficient for him to say that "miners reveal a greater fibrosis than that of the non-exposed, but it is a non-disabling fibrosis unless the carbonaceous substance is combined with siliceous material." The type of pneumoconiosis found in South Wales coal-miners suggests that this is not so. There is an unbiased discussion on the value of aluminium dust therapy in silicosis, and useful chapters on tuberculosis in industry and on the inert dusts. Descriptions of special industrial processes are clear and particularly well illustrated. He outlines the principles of x-ray diffraction and dust-counting methods and describes in detail the method of administering oxygen under pressure.

Such statements as, "It is advisable to consult chest x-rays for they may reveal pathology of varying degrees," which occurs when discussing "laboratory findings" in persons exposed to dangerous amounts of gasoline, lack clarity. The reader detects at times a sense of indecision when Johnstone quotes at length from publications on a particular subject without indicating which idea he believes to be right. But these are minor criticisms of a book which contains much useful knowledge.

DONALD HUNTER.

RECENT CARDIOLOGY

Recent Advances in Cardiology. By Terence East, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P., and Curtis Bain, M.C., D.M., F.R.C.P. Fourth edition. (Pp. 454; 27 plates and 98 text-figures. £1 4s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1948.

Nearly twenty years have elapsed since the first publication of *Recent Advances in Cardiology* by Drs. East and Bain. A comparison with the present edition shows how remarkable has been the transformation of cardiological knowledge in these two decades. Such rapid advances entail a risk that students will concern themselves with spectacular new developments while they are still unsure of fundamental principles. The authors must, of course, discuss new subjects, as the title of their book implies, but, building as they do on the earlier editions, they strike an admirable balance.

Those seeking an exposition of familiar problems such as cardiac dyspnoea or the arrhythmias will find them clearly presented, even though the style is staccato in places. More advanced students will find references to such subjects as the newer theories of the electrocardiogram, ventricular gradient, cardiac catheterization, and angiocardiology. So faithfully have the authors expounded these developments that they have had not only to add to the volume but to rearrange it completely. The revised chapter on congenital heart disease is perhaps less well balanced than others. The bibliographies deserve special mention, for they have become extensive and informative contributions showing the evolution of each branch of the subject. I recommend this work without reservation to all students of cardiology: the beginner and the more advanced student alike will find his needs met and his interest stimulated.

K. SHIRLEY SMITH.

IRRESPIRABLE ATMOSPHERES

Breathing in Irrespirable Atmospheres, and, in Some Cases, also Under Water. By Sir Robert H. Davis, F.R.S.A. With foreword by Sir Leonard Hill, F.R.S., LL.D., M.B. (Pp. 386; fully illustrated. 25s.) London: The Saint Catherine Press.

This new book is intended primarily for lay readers, particularly for those who use the many types of breathing apparatus described. The author describes fully the problems of altitude flying, war and industrial gas poisoning, fire fighting, mine rescue, and resuscitation. In most sections he discusses severally the evolution of each problem and the development of the various types of apparatus to cope with it. The resultant mixture of history, physiology, technical problems, and description of apparatus is in the tradition of Sir Robert's previous book, *Deep Diving and Submarine Operations*, and, although not pleasing to a purist, will hold the interest of the reader. The physiology is simplified and therefore dogmatic.

This book is a remarkable record of achievement in many fields and contains much that is of interest to the specialist. There is no doubt that it will join its companion on the shelves of all those interested in respiratory problems.

K. W. DONALD.

THE RORSCHACH TEST

Principles and Practice of the Rorschach Personality Test. By W. Mons. (Pp. 164. 12s. 6d.) London: Faber and Faber.

Though the Rorschach test has become firmly established and is widely used in Britain, no really elementary textbook has been published until now, and the test remains largely in the hands of the expert. One unfortunate result of this is that its potentialities are not always realized as fully as they might be. The tester is seldom a clinician and so does not select his subjects, and the clinician does not know how to select those patients for whom the test can most appropriately be used. Both classes of reader will welcome this book. Dr. Mons gives an account of the theoretical basis and of the actual technique of the test, and provides the clinician with information about the indications for its use and about its limitations. He emphasizes the fact that this is an introduction only; he is writing for beginners, and does not take for granted in his readers any previous acquaintance with the test. He has